



UNIVERSITY  
OF THE BAHAMAS

### Course Outline



Title: Genre Studies: The Novel	
Abbreviation and Number: ENGL 351	AS Paper No.: 20-134
Academic Unit: English Studies (ES)	
Department: English (ENGL)	
Course Offered: ( X ) Yearly ( ) Odd Years ( ) Even Years	Course Sequence: ( ) Fall ( X ) Spring ( ) Fall and Spring
Credits: 3	( 3 ) Lecture/Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Other (Specify)
Hours Per Week: 3	Practice Hour(s): ( ) Clinical Rounds ( ) Fieldwork ( ) Kitchen ( ) Studio
Pre-requisite: ENGL 120	
Co-requisite: None	

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students trace novel-writing as a literary practice from the eighteenth century to its complex, global forms in the twenty-first, emphasizing various historical, cultural, economic and philosophical contexts that shaped its development. They examine the interplay between enlightenment, romantic, realist, modernist and postcolonial concepts of literature and the novel.

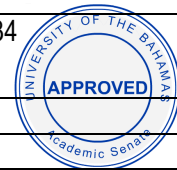
### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. discuss the structural and thematic elements of the novel as a genre;
2. apply the major critical theories to the analysis of the novel;
3. characterise the various types and functions of the novel;
4. analyse the social, cultural and historical elements that have influenced the development of the novel; and
5. analyse specific linguistic and discourse strategies employed by post-colonial and feminist theories to challenge and re-evaluate prevailing critical norms of the novel.

### COURSE CONTENT

- I. Introduction: The Novel as a Genre
  - A. Definitions of the Novel
    - i. Fiction
    - ii. Prose
    - iii. Narrative
  - B. The Novel Contrasted with other Literary Genres
    - i. Drama
    - ii. Poetry
    - iii. Novella
    - iv. Short Story
  - C. Generic Identity of the Novel
    - i. Perceptual
    - ii. Structural
    - iii. Sociological
    - iv. Mythic
    - v. Typographic
    - vi. Philosophical
    - vii. Subjective



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- viii. Cultural
- D. Brief History of the Novel
  - i. Classical period: the age of Plato and Aristotle
  - ii. History and romance as precursors of the novel in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
  - iii. Rise of realism in the nineteenth century
  - iv. Twentieth century and the influence of John Barth, James Joyce, E. M. Forster, Percy Lubbock, Cleanth Brooks, F. R. Leavis, Ian Watt and Wayne Booth (on the criticism and theory of the novel).
- E. Conditions of Emergence of the Novel
  - i. Rise of literacy
  - ii. Influence of printing
  - iii. Rise of a market economy
  - iv. Rise of individualism
- F. Types of Novels
  - i. As defined within historical boundaries
  - ii. As defined within technical boundaries
- II. Character in the Novel
  - A. Methods of Characterisation
  - B. Flat and Round Characters
  - C. Teller-Characters and Reflector-Characters
- III. Structure in the Novel
  - A. Spatial Form
  - B. The Literary Motif
  - C. Temporal Order, Duration and Frequency
- IV. Point of View
  - A. Relationship between Distance and Point of View
  - B. Omniscient, First-person and Third-person Points of View
  - C. Mimesis and Diegesis in the Novel
- V. Realism
  - A. Authorial and Aesthetic Ideology
  - B. Marxist Aesthetics and Literary Realism
  - C. Moral Realism
- VI. Plot in the Novel
  - A. Comic and Tragic Plots
  - B. Cause-and-Effect Analysis of Plots
  - C. Disrupting the Linearity of Plots: Flashback and Forward-Jumping Techniques
  - D. The Freytag Pyramid
- VII. Narrative Theory and the Novel
  - A. Narrator versus Narratee
  - B. Virtual, Real and Ideal Readers



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- C. The Zero-Degree Narratee
- D. Real Vs. Implied Readers
- E. Modes of Signification and Symbolisation in the Novel

VIII. The Novel and Society

- A. Post-Colonial Linguistic Experimentation in the Novel
  - i. Pidgins and creoles
  - ii. Code-mixing
  - iii. Proverbs
  - iv. Indigenised varieties of English
  - v. Native similes and metaphors
- B. Reader-Response Criticism
  - i. Text-dominant models
  - ii. Reader-dominant models
- C. Feminist Criticism
  - i. Gynocriticism: history, styles, themes, genres and structures of writing by women
  - ii. The woman as reader vs. the woman as writer
  - iii. Feminist readings of male texts versus feminist readings of female texts
  - iv. The novel and the reinterpretation of the lives of women
  - v. The novel and narrative prominence of female characters and the female individual

**ASSESSMENT**

Attendance and participation.....	10%
Papers (3).....	60%
Tests.....	20%
Assignments.....	10%
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Students must study **AT LEAST FOUR NOVELS** selected from the British, American, Postcolonial and Global literary traditions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS**

- Armstrong, Nancy. *Desire and Domestic Fiction: A Political History of the Novel*. Oxford UP, 1987.
- Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffith, and Helen Tiffin, editors. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*. Routledge, 1995.
- \*Brenkman, John. "World and Novel." *Narrative*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2016, pp. 13-27.
- Brydon, Diana, and Helen Tiffin. *Decolonising Fictions*. Dangaroo, 1993.
- Connor, Steven. *The English Novel in History, 1950-1995*. Routledge, 1996.
- Davis, Lennard. *Factual Fictions: The Origins of the English Novel*. Columbia UP, 1983.
- \*Forster, E. M. *Aspects of the Novel and Related Writings*. London: Edward Arnold, 1974.
- Gasiorec, Andrezej. *The State of the Novel: Postwar British Writers on the Art of Fiction*. Edward Arnold, 1994.
- Gikandi, Simon, editor. *The Novel in Africa and the Caribbean since 1950*. Vol. 11. Oxford UP, 2016.
- Halperin, John, editor. *The Theory of the Novel: New Essays*. Oxford UP, 1974.
- \*Hawthorne, Jeremy. *Studying the Novel*. Edward Arnold, 1992.
- Hawthorne, Jeremy. *Unlocking the Text: Fundamental Issues in Literary Theory*. Edward Arnold, 1987.



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- \*Kennedy, X.J. and Dana Gioia. *An Introduction to Fiction*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Longman, 1999.
- Kershner, R.B. *The Twentieth-Century Novel: An Introduction*. Bedford, 1997.
- Lukacs, Gyory. *The Theory of the Novel*. Trans. Anna Bostock. MIT Press, 1971.
- Martin, Wallace. *Recent Theories of Narrative*. Cornell UP, 1986.
- McKeon, Michael. *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740*. John Hopkins UP, 1987.
- \*Menon, Tara. "Keeping Count: Direct Speech in the Nineteenth-Century British Novel." *Narrative*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2019, pp. 160-81.
- Miles, Rosalind. *The Female Form: Women Writers and the Conquest of the Novel*. Routledge, 1990.
- Moretti, Franco, editor. *The Novel, Vol. 1: History, Geography, and Culture*, Princeton UP, 2006.
- Moretti, Franco, editor. *The Novel, vol. 2: Forms and Themes*, Princeton UP, 2006.
- \*Rice, Philip, and Patricia Waugh, editors. *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Edward Arnold, 1992.
- \*Robinson, Solveig C. "Bookish Histories: Books, Literature, and Commercial Modernity, 1700-1900." *Victorian Studies*, vol. 53, no. 2, 2011, pp. 365-67.
- Oxford History of the Novel in English*, 9 vols. Oxford UP, 2012-2018.
- Showalter, Elaine. *A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing (Expanded Edition)*. Princeton UP, 1999.
- Stevick, Philip. *The Theory of the Novel*. St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- \*Tarr, Clayton Carlyle. "The Loss of Maidenhead: Rape and the Revolutionary Novel." *Eighteenth Century Fiction*, vol. 31, no. 3, 2019, pp. 549-74.
- Todd, Janet. *Feminist Literary History*. Routledge, 1988.
- Vermeulen, P., editor. *Contemporary Literature and the End of the Novel: Creature, Affect, Form*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2015.
- \*Zuroski, Eugenia. "Disenchanted China: Orientalism and the Aesthetics of Reason in the English Novel." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, vol. 38, no. 2/3, 2005, pp. 254-71.

## JOURNALS

*Commonwealth Novel in English*  
*Contemporary Literature*  
*International Fiction Review*  
*Journal of African Cultural Studies*  
*Journal of Modern Literature*  
*Journal of Narrative Technique*  
*Modern Fiction Studies*

*Narrative*  
*Novel: A Forum on Fiction*  
*PMLA*  
*Research in African Literatures*  
*Studies in the Novel*  
*Women's Studies*

## WEBSITES

<http://www.ub.edu.bs/academics/ub-libraries/> (University of The Bahamas Libraries)  
<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sll/research/centre-for-the-novel-215.php> (Centre for the Novel)  
<https://www.bl.uk/restoration-18th-century-literature/articles/the-rise-of-the-novel> (The Rise of the Novel)

\*Indicates availability in the HCM Library